

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 9-11, 18-20, 26-28, 32, and 36 are pending in the present application, Claims 2, 9, 18-20, 26-28, 32, and 36 are amended and Claims 1, 4-8, 12-17, 21-25, 29-31, 33-35, and 37-50 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Support for the foregoing amendments can be found in the claims as originally filed. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 4-8, 12-17, 21-25, 29-31, 33-35, and 37-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Wack et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,782,337, herein "Wack"); and Claims 2-3, 9-11, 18-20, 26-28, 32, and 36 are objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim.

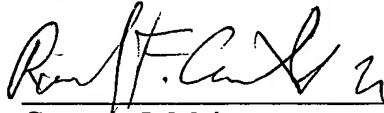
Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowable subject matter in Claims 2-3, 9-11, 18-20, 26-28, 32, and 36.

Accordingly, Applicants have canceled Claims 1, 4-8, 12-17, 21-25, 29-31, 33-35, and 37-50 and have amended Claims 2, 9, 18-20, 26-28, 32, and 36 to rewrite the claims into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and intervening claims. Thus, the rejection of Claims 1, 4-8, 12-17, 21-25, 29-31, 33-35, and 37-50 as being anticipated by Wack is submitted to be moot.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.  
Registration No. 40,440